



# The Listening Post

**Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter**

**Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

**Kentucky Talking Book Library**

**300 Coffee Tree Road P O Box 537 Frankfort KY 40602-0537**

**1-800-372-2968**

**Serving Kentucky's Need to Know**

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**Number 46**

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## **KTBL Mailing Address**

Please note that our Post Office box has changed. Our new mailing address is:

**Kentucky Talking Book Library**

**P O Box 537**

**Frankfort KY 40602-0537**

The forwarding order for our old box number has expired. If you address mail to it, it will not be delivered to us and may be returned to you.

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## **Kentucky Talking Book Library Inducts First 10<sup>2</sup> Members**

The 10<sup>2</sup> Talking Book Club was created by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) to recognize the reading accomplishments of Talking Book readers 100 years of age and older. The Kentucky Talking Book Library inducted its first two members into the NLS 10<sup>2</sup> Club in October. Two more members joined in November. Because none of our 4 interested patrons were able to travel, we decided not to have a single event, but to visit each patron at their home. Each member was awarded a letter from Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of NLS, a commemorative pin and a certificate of membership.

As luck would have it, our first inductee lives at an independent living residence in Lexington, where we have 4 other patrons. Helen Pohl, who turned 103 in November, was the first Kentuckian to join the 10<sup>2</sup> Club. What started out as a small, intimate gathering grew into something much bigger when the facility agreed to host a reception. Regional Librarian Barbara Penegor awarded Mrs.

Pohl with her NLS certificate and pin, along with a Talking Book bookmark, *A Treasury of Talking Books*, and a talking clock/keychain. Then Kentucky's First Lady, Glenna Fletcher, publicly congratulated Mrs. Pohl and presented her with a framed "Unbridled Spirit" award, signed by the Governor. The "Unbridled Spirit" award was given to Mrs. Pohl for her outstanding contribution to the state by advocating reading and literacy and being such a good role model for life-long learning. "I am honored to recognize her induction into the 10<sup>2</sup> Club and her amazing dedication to learning," said Mrs. Fletcher. Mrs. Pohl responded, "Receiving this honor and having the First Lady here with me makes this the proudest day of my life." She added that all the residents at the facility should share in the honor because "We are a reading group!" She then delighted the audience with a recitation of James Whitcomb Riley's "Little Orphan Annie".

In the year she has been a Talking Book user, Mrs. Pohl has read over 62 books. Her favorite book of all time is *Gone With the Wind*. She enjoys reading Shakespeare ("he knew the human heart"), Robert Louis Stevenson, Jan Karon, and John Jakes ("he made history come to life"). Mrs. Pohl also receives books from the Lexington Public Library through its Book Buddies program and participates in a book club held twice a month at the facility's library.



"The goblins will get you if you don't watch out!" Mrs. Pohl recites "Little Orphan Annie" while First Lady Glenna Fletcher looks on.

Clara Custer became the second member of the Kentucky chapter of the 10<sup>2</sup> Club. Mrs. Custer turned 102 in November and lives with her daughter in Bowling Green. They graciously invited us into their home for a small celebration as Barbara presented Mrs. Custer's gifts and shared refreshments with several KDLA staff members, two Bowling Green Public librarians and a few close friends.

Mrs. Custer was born in Germany and was 8 years old when she came to America and remembers seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time and being processed at Ellis Island. When her father was eligible to become a US citizen he walked 18 miles to his swearing-in ceremony, and 18 miles back. (At this point in her story she recited "my" Pledge of Allegiance.)



Clara Custer becomes the second Kentuckian to join the 10<sup>2</sup> Club.

Mrs. Custer has only been a Talking Book patron since February, 2006, but has already read over 80 books. Like Mrs. Pohl, her favorite is *Gone with the Wind*. Her favorite authors are Nicholas Sparks,

**Richard Paul Evans, James Patterson, Jonathan Kellerman, Danielle Steel, and Nora Roberts.**

**Frances Harrison of Owensboro was inducted into the Club in November. As one of six children, she wanted to read all the time and read everything she could. She attended Nursing School at IU's medical campus during the Depression because it was cheaper than attending IU's Bloomington campus. She married her husband, a doctor, and they moved to Owensboro.**



**Frances Harrison shows her 10<sup>2</sup> Club Certificate.**

**She is unable to get out much anymore, but used to like to play golf. She enjoyed traveling until a few years ago. She and her husband toured Europe for two months in the 1960s. She even got to sail on the Queen Mary for that trip.**

**Mrs. Harrison is the youngest member of our 10<sup>2</sup> Club, having just turned 100 in September. Vice President Dick Cheney was in town for a fundraiser and stopped in on Mrs. Harrison's birthday party where they had their picture made together.**

**Mrs. Harrison does not have a favorite book. She likes history and was a member of the Book-of-the-Month Club. A KTBL patron for about three years, she has read over 166 books.**

**Marie Elliott, a resident of Springfield, was also inducted in November. She was glad to spend time with us and told us all about being a child in Washington County in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. She read everything she could as a child, sharing her love of books with her father. She loved school and attended 8<sup>th</sup> grade three times because there was no high school for her to go to.**



**Marie Elliott**

**Mrs. Elliott has been a patron of KTBL for almost 10 years and reads over 100 books each year. She does not have a favorite book. "I really, really enjoy them (Talking Books)." She likes the older writers, especially Janette Oke. "I guess I'm too old to like these modern writers." she said. Even though she now has some trouble hearing the Talking Books, she still likes romances because, "We never get too old to love."**

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## **Digital Talking Book Player Update**

**Here is the first photo of the digital talking book player and book, which are due to be released in 2008. The player pictured is the basic model. There will**



also be a similar, advanced model. The player is about 6 by 9 by 2 inches and weighs slightly over 2 pounds, in comparison with the cassette player, which is 9 by 11 by 3 inches and weighs 7 pounds. The body of the player is dark charcoal grey and the buttons are red, green, yellow and white.

The Rewind, Play, and Fast Forward controls are close to the front edge of the player. The square Play (green) button starts and stops playback. The triangular Rewind and Fast Forward (white) buttons move through the book more quickly every time they are pressed. Just behind the navigation buttons are the Power (red), Sleep (white) and Volume (yellow) buttons. The sleep button allows the machine to turn itself off 30 minutes after it is pressed. Each button will talk to you when pressed, telling you its function. The Tone and Speed (white) buttons are located on either side of the speaker. Since the player has no moving parts other than the controls, it will be more durable than the current cassette player.

There is a white pull-out handle, similar to the one on the cassette player. Above the handle is the opening for the digital talking book cartridge. On the right side of the player is the headphone jack. A compartment for storing the power cord is located on the back of the machine.

The cartridge mailing container is similar in size to the green cassette box, but only half the thickness. The cartridge itself is roughly the size of a cassette. When the end of the cartridge is pressed down on a flat surface in front of the player, the other end of the cartridge can slide smoothly into the player. There is only one way it will fit into the player. A finger hole makes removal easy.



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## Talking Book 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

2006 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). The American Printing

House for the Blind in Louisville (APH) produced its first “talking book” for NLS in 1937. The book was *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift. On November 18, 2006, seven volunteers from our Volunteer Reading Program traveled to APH to participate in an all-day marathon re-recording of this first book. The original recording studio in the company’s 1883 building was put back in service for this one day. Our volunteers were glad to be a part of this historic event.

# Kentucky Humanities Magazine

**KTBL is happy to add *Kentucky Humanities Magazine* to our list of Kentucky magazines. Published twice a year (April and October), *Kentucky Humanities Magazine* is serious about telling Kentucky's story -- but not too serious. They publish articles by scholars and other writers who have done their homework and tell you about it in a friendly, entertaining style. If you are interested in receiving this magazine, please contact your librarian.**



## New Technology Provides Quick Access to Printed Material

**The National Federation of the Blind (NFB), in partnership with Ray Kurzweil, has created the first portable reading machine for the blind and visually impaired: the Kurzweil-National Federation of the Blind Reader. This device uses character-recognition software combined with text-to-speech conversion technology. Weighing less than one pound, the reader fits in the palm of your hand.**

The user holds the reader over a piece of paper and simply pushes a button to take a picture. The machine takes about thirty seconds to process the image and then begins reading the contents of the page to the user. It can be used to read mail, a menu, a receipt, a newsletter, or just about any printed item.

**The portable reader is the first device to provide rapid and easy access to a variety of printed information. Tasks that previously required a human reader can now be accomplished independently. The cost for this machine is \$3,495.00 plus shipping and handling. For more information or to order the Kurzweil-National Federation of the Blind Reader at a special introductory discount, call NFB at (877) 708-1724.**

# Be Kind

*Please Rewind All Cassette and Video Tapes*

## Donations

KTBL would like to thank the following people for making recent donations to our library. Thank you all for your generosity!

J. Milburn and Ethel Eldridge  
Ann O. Bresler  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Robey  
Glennie Garrett

Mildred Maxey  
Richard L. Owens  
Rodney, Lois, & Susan Miller  
William Campbell



If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P O Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. Please do not send cash through the mail. Donations are 100% tax deductible and appreciated by the patrons who use our service.

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## Dates to Remember

KTBL will be closed on the following days:

December 25-26: Christmas  
December 29-January 1: New Year's Day  
January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday



If you call during regular work hours and get a recorded greeting, it means our staff are busy with other patrons, or we are in a meeting. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

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*Happy Holidays from the Kentucky Talking Book Library*



*And Best Wishes for the New Year!*

## **Important Items to Remember**

**Kentucky Talking Book Library**

**P O Box 537**

**Frankfort, KY 40602-0537**

**1-800-372-2968**

**1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time zone)**

**You may leave a voice mail message after hours.**

**We want you to enjoy Talking Books. Your librarian will tailor your service to suit your needs. She will be happy to assist you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to call us for any of the following:**

- **to make book requests**
- **with any questions or problems**
- **whenever your name, address, or telephone number changes**
- **to temporarily stop service**
- **if you want to change the types of books you get, or the number of books you receive**
- **when you have problems with books or machines**
- **if you want to change the format of your newsletters or catalogs**
- **to cancel your service**

**Include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence, request lists, e-mails, and telephone messages.**

**Please return each book as soon as you finish it. The maximum loan period is 30 days.**

**Kentucky magazines and the cassette version of *The Listening Post* must be returned to KTBL within 30 days. Keeping the magazine or newsletter longer may prevent you from receiving future issues.**

**Remember to rewind all movies and cassette tapes before returning them.**

**Mark an "X" on the mailcard of any defective book. Do not mark on the cassette.**

**Take care of all cassette books, Braille books, and cassette players; keep them free of food, liquids, dust, and debris.**

Please keep this list for future reference.



In providing information to readers of *The Listening Post*, the Kentucky Talking Book Library does not endorse any product or service referred to in this newsletter.

# The Listening Post

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Sponsored by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives,  
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KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY  
P O BOX 537  
FRANKFORT KY 40602-0537

FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND AND  
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED





**The Listening Post** is also available on cassette or in Braille. If you prefer the cassette or Braille version, please call 1-800-372-2968.